

Appln. No. 10/048,013
Amdt. dated August 21, 2003
Reply to Office action of June 3, 2003

REMARKS

The Office Action and the cited and applied references have been carefully reviewed. No claim is allowed. Claims 1, 4-10, 12, and 19-29 presently appear in this application and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-12 and 19-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and as being incomplete for omitting essential steps (claims 1-3 and 19-28). This rejection is obviated by the amendments to the claims.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 11-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nass-Arden et al. (Molecular Reproduction and Development, vol. 25, p. 369-373, 1990) in combination with Bonjouklian et al. (U.S. Patent 5,378,725).

This rejection is obviated by the amendments to the claims. The examiner indicated that claims 3, 5, and 8-10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The amendments to the claims are believed to overcome the §112, second paragraph rejecting and the features of claim 3 as well as of claim 2 are now incorporated into claim 1.

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Accordingly, claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom are allowable and not subject to the §103(a) rejection over Nass-Arden and Bonjouklian.

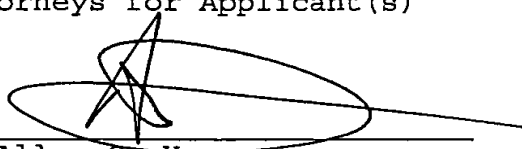
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance are earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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